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OUT OF THE BLUE
DECEMBER 14, 1986.
WHERE THE #!&*!% IS JACK MAGNICONTE?
kerry KAVANAGH & ron ALTAVILLE SCRIPT · rod WHIGHAM PENCILS · tony DeZUNIGA INKS · diverse HANDS LETTERS · george ROUSSOS COLORS · michael HIGGINS & carl POTTS EDITORS · jim SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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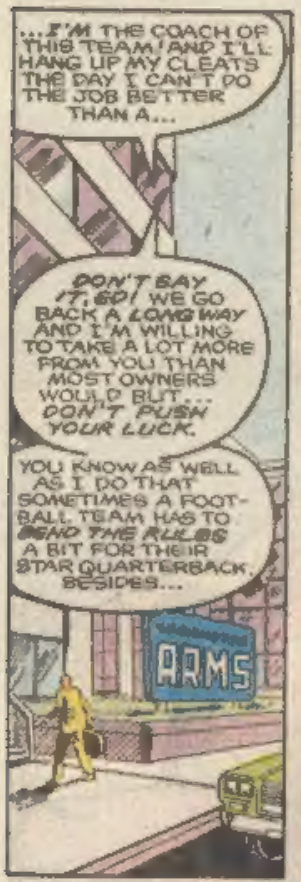
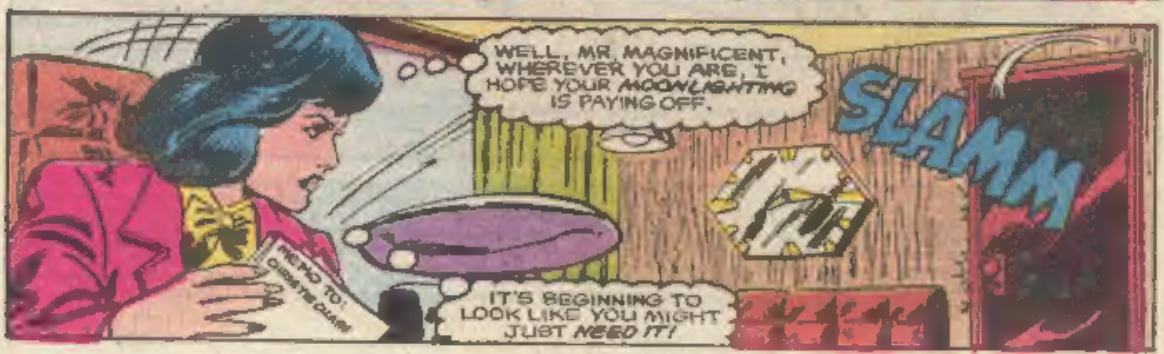
DON'T TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME, ED! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS. ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE BY NOW.
%¢#!&! IT, CHRIS, I REALIZE YOU ONLY INHERITED THE SMASHERS LAST YEAR, BUT YOU SHOULDA KNOWN BETTER! YOU HAD NO BUSINESS GIVING MAGNICONTE PERMISSION TO MISS THE TEAM PLANE LAST NIGHT.
FOR THAT MATTER, HE HAD NO BUSINESS GOING TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE...


...I'M THE COACH OF THIS TEAM! AND I'LL HANG UP MY CLEATS THE DAY I CAN'T DO THE JOB BETTER THAN A...
DON'T SAY IT, ED! WE GO BACK A LONG WAY AND I'M WILLING TO TAKE A LOT MORE FROM YOU THAN MOST OWNERS WOULD BUT... DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT SOMETIMES A FOOTBALL TEAM HAS TO BEND THE RULES A BIT FOR THEIR STAR QUARTERBACK. BESIDES...
ARMS

...I HAD MY REASONS...
WELL, I'M GETTING MORE THAN A LITTLE FED UP WITH "MR. MAGNIFICENT'S" SPECIAL TREATMENT BETWEEN HIS ERRATIC PERFORMANCE ON THE FIELD LATELY AND THIS !?@&# KICKERS INC. SIDE JOB OF HIS...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT WE'RE VERY CLOSE TO FINALIZING THAT... TRANSACTION YOU MENTIONED COACH KIRBY.
NEW YORK SMASHERS
IT COULD HAPPEN ANY TIME NOW... ED!
GOOD...

CAUSE IF MAGNICONTE AIN'T HERE BY 7:30 A.M. WARM-UPS...
...THERE MAY BE SOME MAJOR CHANGES AROUND HERE SOONER THAN ANYONE EXPECTS!
NEW YORK SMASHERS

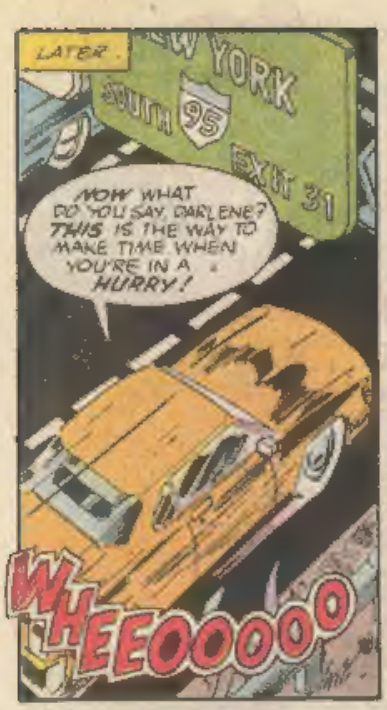

WELL, MR. MAGNIFICENT, WHEREVER YOU ARE, I HOPE YOUR MOONLIGHTING IS PAYING OFF.
SLAMM
HEHO TO CHRISTIE CLARK
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE YOU MIGHT JUST NEED IT!

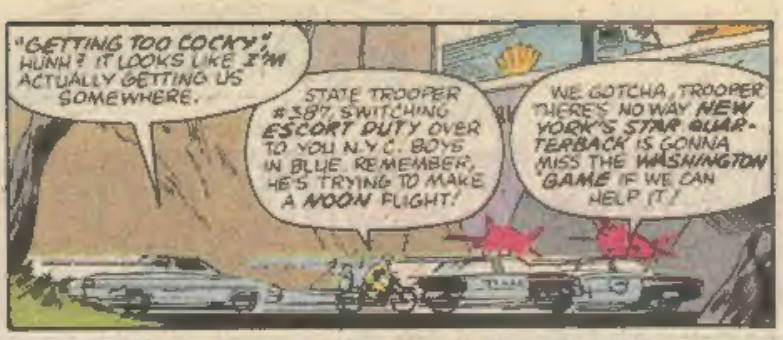
UPSTATE NEW YORK, 9:30 A.M.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, DARLENE! I ASKED MISS CHASE IF I COULD TAKE A LATE PLANE TO ST. LOUIS, BUT THE GUYS WERE STILL EXPECTING ME FOR PRE-GAME PRACTICE.
THE NEXT TIME YOU LURE ME TO THE BOONIES TO CHECK OUT FLYING SAUCERS, MAKE SURE IT'S NOT FOOTBALL SEASON, O.K.?
LOWER YOUR VOICE, JACK. IT WAS YOUR IDEA FOR KICKERS, INC. TO SPECIALIZE IN "COMIC BOOK" TYPE PROBLEMS. THEY CAN'T ALL BE REAL, YOU KNOW?
BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR JOB TO SCREEN THE PROSPECTIVE CASES!
AND IT'S MY JOB TO SUPERVISE THE PAYROLL, DEAL WITH THE PRESS, HIRE THE PERSONNEL, PAY THE BILLS...
...DO YOUR LAUNDRY, COOK YOUR MEALS, WASH YOUR DISHES, MAKE YOUR BED...
K-POP
SKREEEEEE clakity clik clak EEE
LOOK OUT!
I'VE GOT UHNE!

MAN, THAT WAS CLOSE! YOU O.K., DARL?
NOT EXACTLY, JACK!
THUMP THUMP
LOOK, DARLENE, I'M SORRY. I JUST WENT TO GRAB THE WHEEL, AND WITH MY REFLEXES I COULDN'T HELP...
YOU KNOW, JACK, I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR EXCUSES EVER SINCE YOU ALLOWED YOUR BROTHER TO USE HIS EXPERIMENTAL "PROWESS INTENSIFIER" ON YOU, YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF CONTROL-- PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY--
PLEASE, DON'T START THAT AGAI--
SPANG
OOPS.
GREAT. I SUPPOSE SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD I'LL GET BLAMED FOR THIS DELAY, TOO. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE THE TIRE WITHOUT A JACK?
ENOUGH ALREADY, DARLENE! JUST TRY AND MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIFT THIS CORNER OF THE CAR UP, YOU GET THE TIRE OFF.
SKRUNCH!
OOPS, AGAIN!
THIS IS A MUCH BETTER IDEA. I'M GLAD I THOUGHT OF IT.
IF YOU WOULD JUST THINK FIRST NOW AND THEN INSTEAD OF ACTING LIKE JUNGLE JIM ALL THE TIME, MAYBE IT WOULD BE EASIER ON BOTH OF US, JACK!
YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR... WITH YOUR...
EDGE.
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, JACK, IT'S GOING TO DESTROY YOU. IT'S GOING TO DESTROY US!
I HONESTLY WISH STEVE HAD NEVER INVENTED THE PROCESS THAT GAVE YOU THESE ABILITIES.
BUT HE DID, DARL, AND WE STARTED KICKERS, INC. AS MUCH IN HIS MEMORY AS ANYTHING ELSE, HE WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO USE THESE ASSETS FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
LIKE CHANGING TIRES?
VROOOOOOM
FINALLY, WE'RE OFF AGAIN. MAKE THE NEXT LEFT ONTO ROUTE 95 SOUTH.
I'VE GOT THE MAP, DARLENE.
NO, JACK, IT'S A RIGHT ONTO THE HUTCHINSON STATE PARKWAY.

BACK IN WASHINGTON...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRY CLEAN YOUR FOOTBALL UNIFORM, DASHER!
I'M A MEDIA STAR, MY FRIEND, OFF AND ON THE BALL FIELD. IT'S HOW YOU DRESS THAT MAKES THE MAN.
THINK YOU COULD HELP ME DRESS, DASHER?
NAVY?!
POSSIBLY. VERY, POSSIBLY. YOU KNOW, I EVEN DESIGN MY OWN CLOTHES SOMETIMES.
YEAH, DASHER EVEN PUT TOGETHER OUR KICKERS INC. UNIFORMS, PUDLINSKI. THEY'RE A LITTLE FLASHY-- BUT I THINK THAT'S WHY I'M LEARNING TO LIKE 'EM.
THANKS, SUICIDE... I THINK!
USE YOUR HEAD, WILLIAMS, HIT 'EM HARDER-- LIKE THIS! GRUNT
GRUNT
OUCH!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY, BRICK. BOMBS AWAY! HAHA HA
WE GOTTA BE READY TO KICK SOME WASHINGTON...
BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT, YOU JERKS! I WANNA KNOW WHAT MAGNICONTE IS UP TO AND I WANNA KNOW NOW!
WE DON'T KNOW, COACH.
THUNK
YOU'RE LYING AND I KNOW IT, WOW!.
THIS BETTER NOT TURN OUT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT KICKER'S INC. SCAM...!
C'MERE, SON, TAKE THIS LOCKER FOR NOW. IF THE SMASHERS' "STAR" QUARTERBACK "MR. MAGNIFICENT" ISN'T HERE IN TWO HOURS, YOU MAY HAVE TO PLAY SECOND-STRING TO WATKINS YOUR FIRST DAY ON THE TEAM.
NEW YORK SMASHERS
I WANT THE REST OF YOU LOUSES TO MEET BOBBY "BULLET" BAKER... QUARTERBACK!

ELSEWHERE...
THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE LAST STRAW, DARLENE. WE NEVER WOULD HAVE RUN OUT OF GAS IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN US LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT, JACK. YOU HAD THE MAP. REMEMBER?
FISHKILL, NEW YORK 6mi
FORGET IT. I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE THE DAY AGAIN...
SIX MILES, HUNH?
SHOULDN'T TAKE ME MORE THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES, THERE AND BACK.
YOU'RE GETTING TOO COCKY, JACK.
BOY, THE COACH IS REALLY GONNA LOVE THIS ONE. HE'S NOT TOO HAPPY ABOUT THIS WHOLE KICKER'S INC. BIT AS IT IS.
HE STILL THINKS OF IT AS NOTHING MORE THAN A TAX DODGE AND A PUBLICITY STUNT. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR SUICIDE, DASHER OR BRICK, BUT I KNOW DARLENE AND I HAVE BETTER REASONS THAN THAT. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT HAVE NOWHERE TO GO FOR HELP.
I'M BEGINNING TO REALIZE THERE'S A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RESPONSIBILITY CONNECTED WITH MY POWERS.
OF COURSE, WITH GREAT POWER, ALSO COMES...
...GREAT ADVANTAGES!
A SHORT WHILE LATER...
IT'S 10:50 A.M. HERE'S A LITTLE NUMBER FOR ALL YOU SMASHERS' FANS, GETTING PSYCHED FOR TODAY'S 2:00 P.M. KICK-OFF AGAINST THE WASHINGTON CENTURIONS--"DROP KICK ME JESUS, THROUGH THE GOAL POSTS OF LIFE"...
A TOUCH OF IRONY, JACK?
NOT NOW, DARLENE. JUST GET IN THE CAR. I'LL DRIVE...
...THAT WAY NOTHING MORE CAN HAPPEN!
WHEEEOOO
VROOOOM


LATER...
NEW YORK
SOUTH 95
EXIT 31
NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY, DARLENE? THIS IS THE WAY TO MAKE TIME WHEN YOU'RE IN A HURRY!
WHEEOOOOO


"GETTING TOO COCKY"! HUNH? IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ACTUALLY GETTING US SOMEWHERE.
STATE TROOPER #387, SWITCHING ESCORT DUTY OVER TO YOU N.Y.C. BOYS IN BLUE. REMEMBER, HE'S TRYING TO MAKE A NOON FLIGHT!
WE GOTCHA, TROOPER. THERE'S NO WAY NEW YORK'S STAR QUARTERBACK IS GONNA MISS THE WASHINGTON GAME IF WE CAN HELP IT!

THANKS TO MY LOYAL FANS IN BLUE, WE JUST MIGHT MAKE THE SHUTTLE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS NO FAITH IN ME, DARLENE.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS, JACK, AND YOU KNOW IT. I JUST DON'T WANT YOU RELYING ON YOUR FAME AND NEW-FOUND ABILITIES TO GET YOU OUT OF EVERY SITUATION YOU "BULL" YOUR WAY INTO.

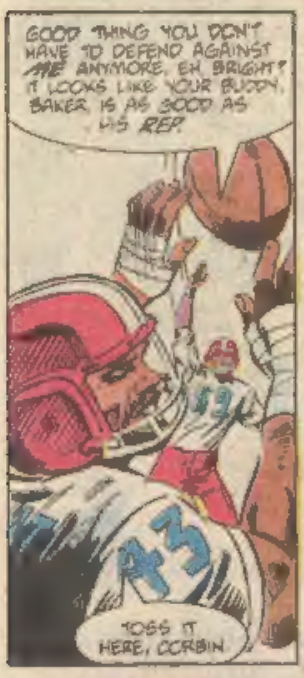
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE'RE BARELY A MILE FROM THE AIRPORT, BUT AT THIS RATE, IT'LL TAKE US ANOTHER HOUR!
FOR INSTANCE, HOW ARE THEY GOING TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH DEAD-STOPPED NEW YORK CITY TRAFFIC?
AIRPOR

I'M TAKING OFF ON FOOT.
PUT THAT STUFF DOWN, JACK. PEOPLE ARE ALREADY STARING.
WE'RE NOT IN THE COUNTRY ANYMORE. IF YOU TAKE OFF AT 40 MILES PER HOUR NOW...!
JUST GET BACK IN THE CAR, JACK.

LATER STILL...
NONONONONONO! I'LL NEVER MAKE THE GAME NOW. THE COACH'LL KILL ME!
WILL YOU JUST CALM DOWN, JACK? THERE'S ANOTHER FLIGHT THAT GETS US TO D.C. BY ONE-THIRTY. THAT GIVES YOU A HALF-HOUR TO GET TO THE STADIUM. NOW GO CALL COACH KIRBY.
I DON'T WANT TO.
J-A-A-A-A-CK.
WASHINGTO
FLIGHT 43
12:30 PM
SHUTT

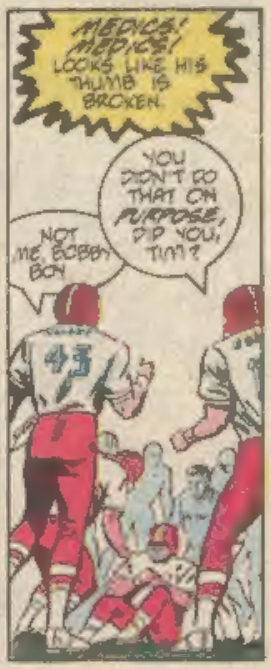
HELLO, COACH, THIS IS...
MAGNICONTE, WHERE THE #!%#&! ARE YOU?!?

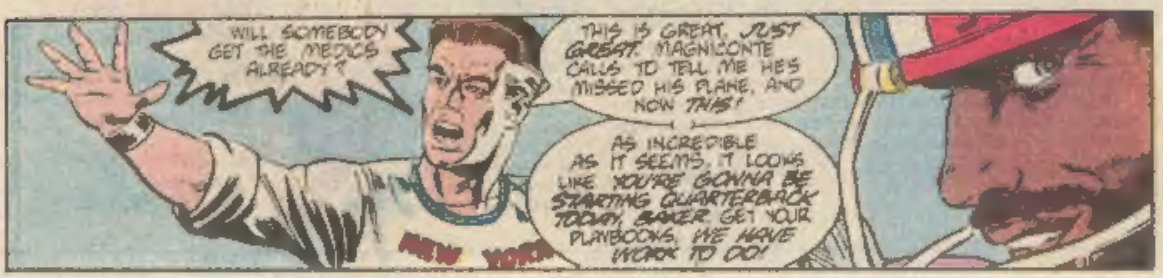
WASHINGTON...
WITH MAGNICONTE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN, I MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO START TODAY. BUT IF BAKER KEEPS THROWING LIKE THAT, I COULD END UP AS THIRD-STRING QUARTERBACK IN A MATTER OF MONTHS.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
12:46
ISN'T "BULLET" BAKER THE GUY WHO WAS RUNNER-UP FOR THE COLLEGE HEISMAN TROPHY THE YEAR JACK WON IT, BRICK?
THAT'S RIGHT, AND TIMMY BRIGHT AIN'T NO PUSHOVER, EITHER.
WHY DO YOU THINK KIRBY TRADED MONAHAN AND A DRAFT CHOICE FOR THOSE TWO FROM DENVER?
WELL, WE NEED DEFENSIVE HELP - BUT ANOTHER QUARTER-BACK? YOU GOT ME, SUICIDE.
GOT IT.
WASHINGTON NATIONAL BANK
NB
BUICK
1741 POTOMAC DRIVE


GOOD THING YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND AGAINST ME ANYMORE, EH, BRIGHT? IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR BUDDY, BAKER, IS AS GOOD AS HIS REP.
TOSS IT HERE, CORBIN

I NEED TO LOOSEN UP A BIT.
HEY, WATKINS - WATKINS!
WHA-?

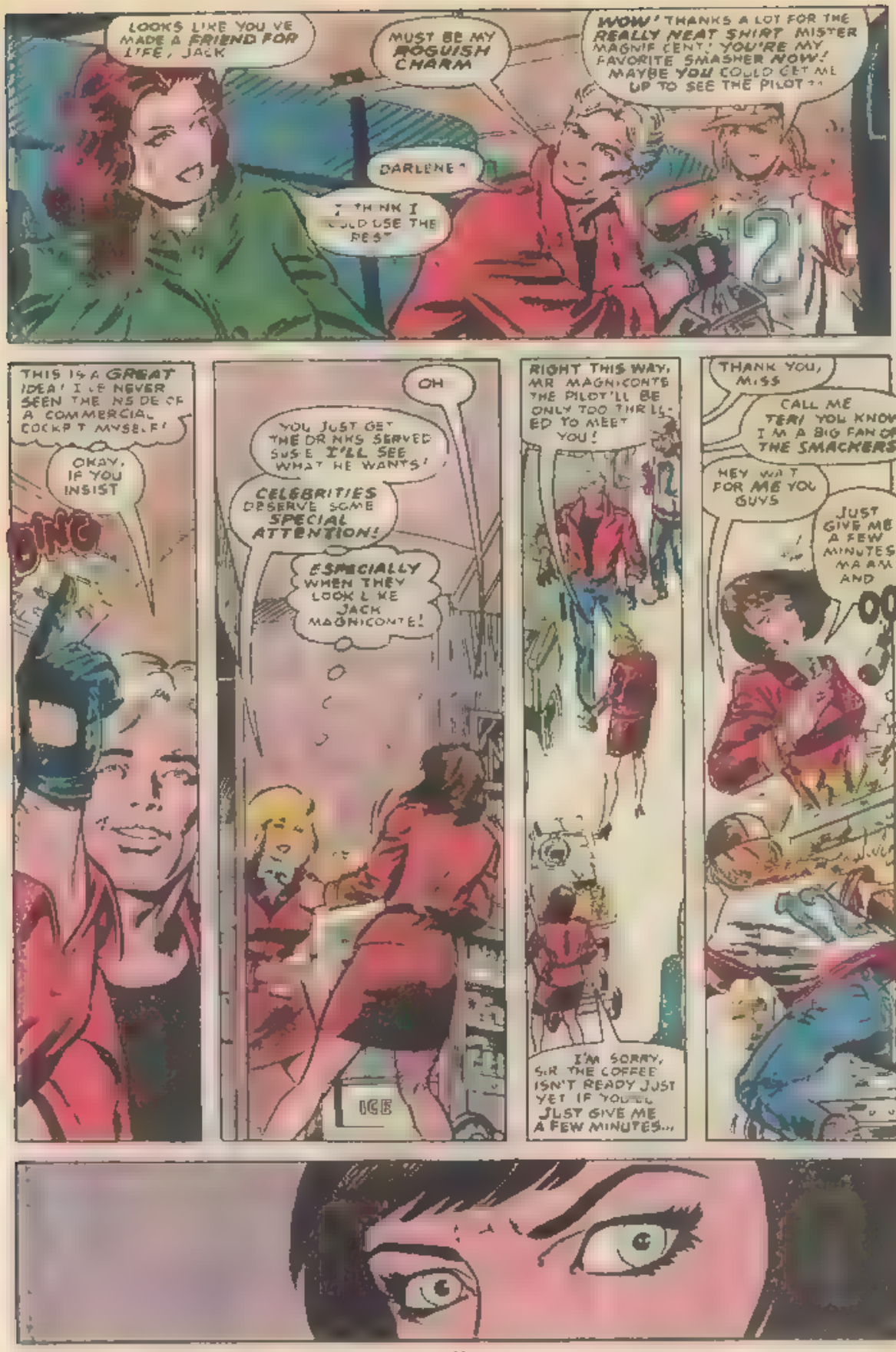
LOOK OU-- OH.
GRAAAK


MEDICS! MEDICS! LOOKS LIKE HIS THUMB IS BROKEN.
YOU DON'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE, DO YOU, TIM?
NOT ME, BOBBY BOY


WILL SOMEBODY GET THE MEDICS ALREADY?
THIS IS GREAT. JUST GREAT. MAGNICONTE CALLS TO TELL ME HE'S MISSED HIS PLANE, AND NOW THIS!
AS INCREDIBLE AS IT SEEMS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA BE STARTING QUARTERBACK TODAY, BAKER. GET YOUR PLAYBOOKS. WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
NEW YORK

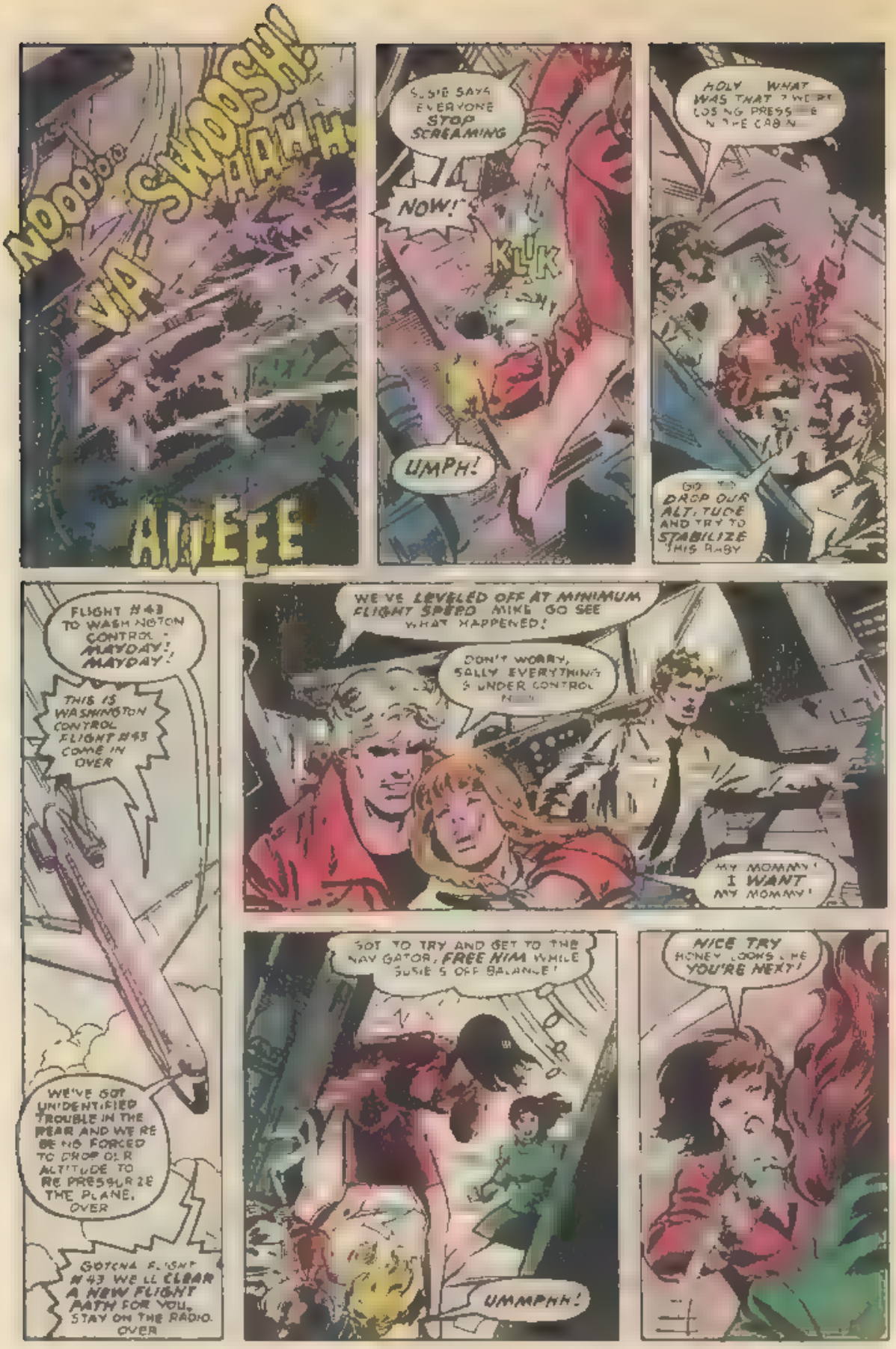
FLIGHT # 43 TO WASHINGTON, D.C. NOW BOARDING AT GATE # 7. FLIGHT # 43 TO WASHINGTON, D.C. NOW BOARDING
PLEASE HAVE YOUR BOARDING PASSES READY AND...
WATCH YOUR STEP.
CAN I SIT BY THE WINDOW? DO THEY HAVE VANILLA ICE CREAM ON THE AIRPLANE?
I DON'T KNOW, DEAR, WE'LL ASK THE STEWARDESS.
ASK HER NOW, MOMMY
IN A FEW MINUTES, SISTERS, WE'LL BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO GOD
I'M SURE, DEAR.
I'M SURE THE GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE SO HAPPY TO SEE US, SAM.
SLOW DOWN, JACK, WE MADE IT.
AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, YOUNG LADY?
I WANNA SEE THE PILOT.
NO ONE'S ALLOWED IN THERE HONEY. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD ASK ME FIRST. MY NAME'S SUSIE.
PILOT
BUT I WANNA SEE THE PILOT.
IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS.
HI, CARL, MIKE. WHERE'S THE NEW NAVIGATOR? I HEAR HE'S A HUNK AND HE'S SINGLE.
STILL SEARCHING THE FRIENDLY SKIES EH, TERI?
WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT CAN HAPPEN...
TRY AND MAKE IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER WE LAND. CKAT WE'RE TEN MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE ALREADY.
IF THINGS KEEP RUNNING THIS SMOOTHLY, I MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE IT IN TIME FOR WARM-UPS, DARL.
AND HOPEFULLY, I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO TRY AND EXHAUST MY HYPER-ACTIVE ENERGY LEVELS BEFORE TAKING THE FIELD. AFTER ALL, FAIR IS FAIR.
I'M JUST HAPPY FOR THIS CHANCE TO WIND DOWN AND MAKE UP, JACK.
ALL WE NEEDED WAS SOME TIME ALONE TO...
WOW!
MR. MAGNIFICENT HIMSELF!

HELLO, EVERYONE I'M YOUR FLIGHT ATTENDANT SUSIE I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL ABOARD FLIGHT #43 TO WASHINGTON D.C. THE WEATHER THERE IS 36 DEGREES AND SUNNY
WE SHOULD BE ARRIVING AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 1:30 THANK YOU AND ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT
AND I SAW YOU BEAT SAN DIEGO 21-6 WITH TWO LONG PASSES TO DASHER CORBIN HE'S MY FAVORITE SMASHER
OH HE IS HE? WELL I SEE YOU KNOW YOUR FOOTBALL SALLY!
I'LL GET THIS ROUND RHONDA YOU GET THE NEXT
JUST KEEP 'EM COMING, STEW WE ONLY GOT A WEEK OFF, THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
ARE YOU MRS MAGNIFICENT?
YES, I AM SALLY BUT YOU CAN CALL ME DARLENE.
ALTHOUGH, THE CHILDREN ALMOST NEVER CALL US, SAM
ALMOST NEVER DEAR
COME ON, SALLY, LEAVE MR MAGNIFICENT ALONE. I'M SURE HE'D LIKE SOME PEACE AND QUIET FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
HE WOULD NOT
WELL I WOULD JUST TURN AROUND AND SIT STILL UNTIL I GET BACK
MOOOM!
FIVE MINUTES LATER, SOMEWHERE ON THE HALF-FILLED 727
AH THERE IT IS.


LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MADE A FRIEND FOR LIFE, JACK
MUST BE MY ROGUISH CHARM
WOW! THANKS A LOT FOR THE REALLY NEAT SHIRT MISTER MAGNIFICENT! YOU'RE MY FAVORITE SMASHER NOW! MAYBE YOU COULD GET ME UP TO SEE THE PILOT??
DARLENE!
I THINK I COULD USE THE REST
THIS IS A GREAT IDEA! I'VE NEVER SEEN THE INSIDE OF A COMMERCIAL COCKPIT MYSELF!
OKAY, IF YOU INSIST
DING
OH
YOU JUST GET THE DRINKS SERVED SUSIE I'LL SEE WHAT HE WANTS!
CELEBRITIES DESERVE SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION!
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY LOOK LIKE JACK MAGNICONTE!
ICE
RIGHT THIS WAY, MR MAGNICONTE THE PILOT'LL BE ONLY TOO THRILLED TO MEET YOU!
I'M SORRY, SIR THE COFFEE ISN'T READY JUST YET IF YOU'LL JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES...
THANK YOU, MISS
CALL ME TERI YOU KNOW, I'M A BIG FAN OF THE SMACKERS!
HEY WAIT FOR ME YOU GUYS
JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES, MA'AM, AND
OOF!

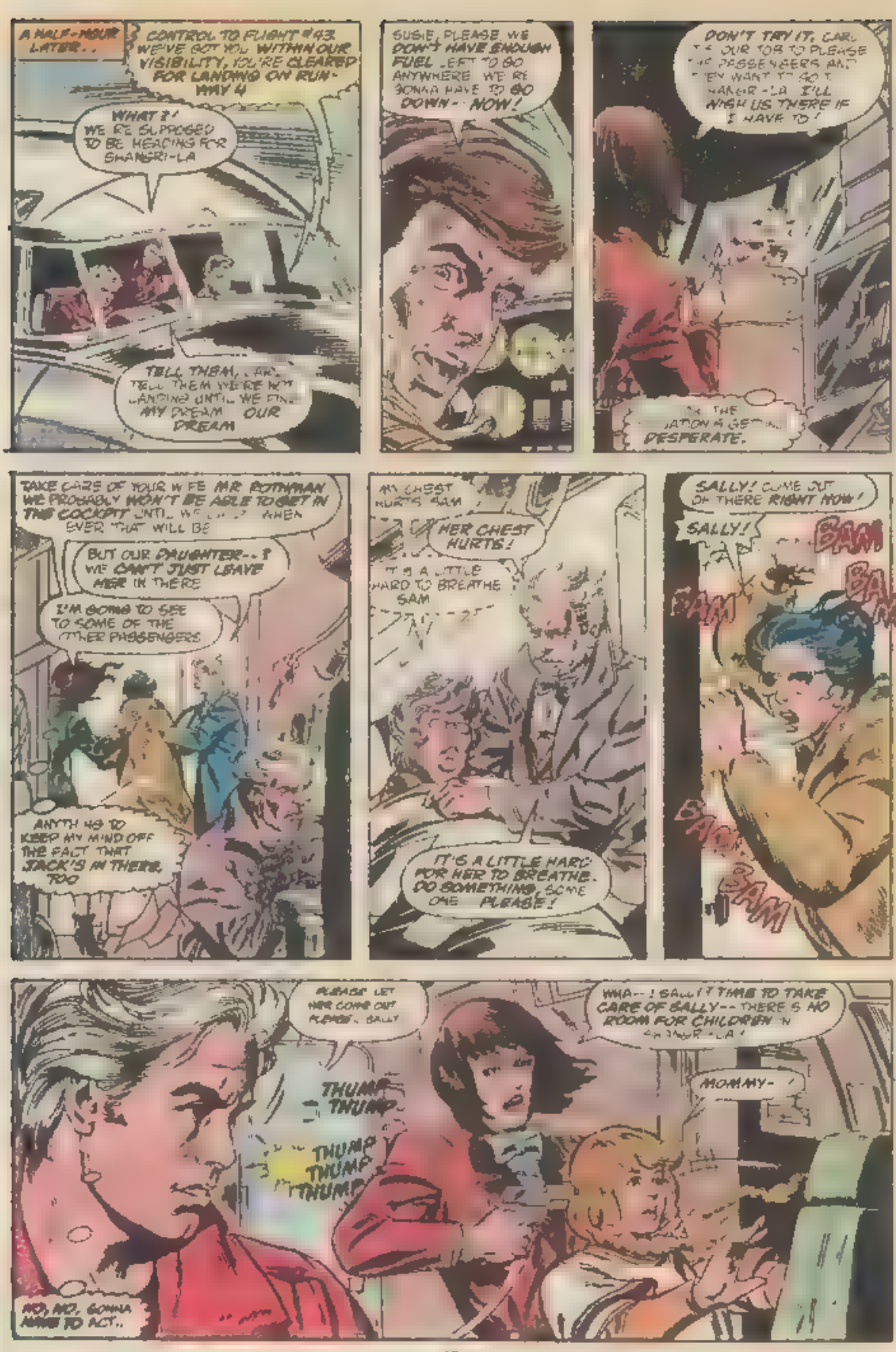
GO RIGHT ON IN YOU TWO I'LL KEEP LARRY HERE OCCUPIED SO YOU CAN HAVE SOME ROOM TO LOOK AROUND
OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY
OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY OH BOY
WHO WANTS ME NOW? G1? WAIT IT'S G2! NO IT'S G-1 G-2 G-3 AND EVERYBODY ELSE!
OH, NO THE COFFEE
'BOUT TIME! I BUZZED YOU TEN MINUTES AGO!
I'M SORRY FOR THE DELAY
WOULD YOU MIND TURNING DOWN THE VOLUME ON THAT THING PLEASE?
COME ON BABY LET THE GOD
HEY SWOOZE, HOWSABOUT ANOTHER SCOTCH AND SODA?
EEP!
ROLL NIGHT LONG
ENOUGH!
SUSIE SOMETHING WRONG HONEY
IS ONLY
SUSIE -?!

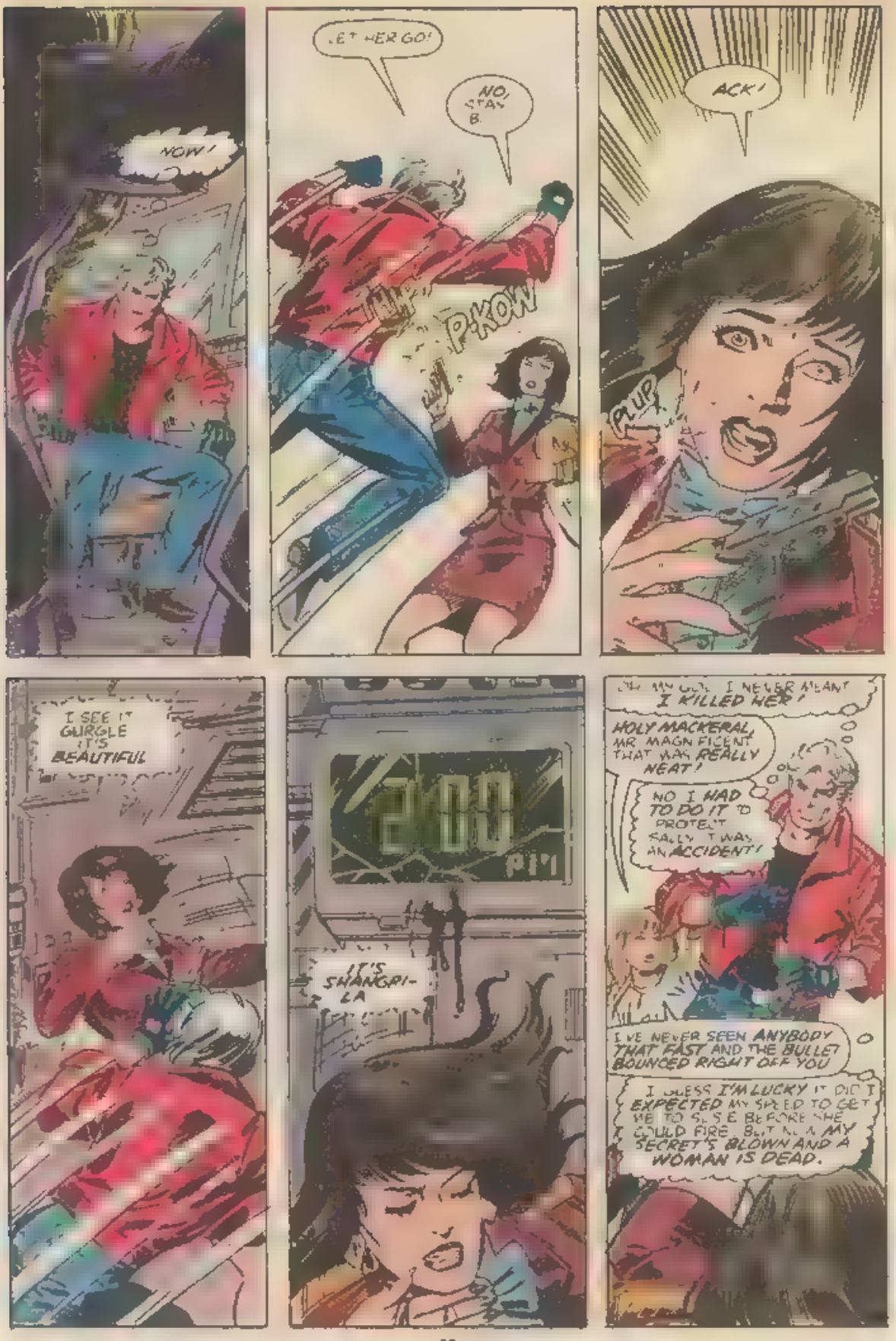
LOOK AT ALL THESE DIALS AND INSTRUMENTS! YOU'VE GOT TO BE A GENIUS TO KNOW HOW TO WORK THIS STUFF EH SALLY
ER SURE MR MAGNIFICENT
NOW THAT WE'VE GIVEN YOU GUYS YOUR PLASTIC WINGS YOUR LITTLE FRIEND SEEMS TO HAVE LOST INTEREST IN US, MR MAGNICONTE.
ATTENTION PLEASE PASSENGERS THIS IS SUSIE, YOUR FLIGHT ATTENDANT
THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN PLANS!
DUE TO RECENT DIFFICULT CONDITIONS I'VE BEEN FORCED TO REVISE OUR DESTINATION SOMEWHAT
WE'LL BE LANDING IN A NEW PLACE--A NICE PLACE-- SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM THE EVERYDAY MUNDANE WORLD WE'RE ALL USED TO SO FAR
SHE'S BEEN DRINKING
WE'RE GOING TO A PLACE I'VE HEARD OF CALLED SHANGRI LA AND I'M SURE WE'RE ALL GOING TO LOVE OUR NEW DIGS THERE BUT
TURN UP THE TUNES MANDY THIS CHICK'S TOO RADICAL
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ANY ROCK N' ROLL IN SHANGRI-LA!
TIME TO TAKE COVER
WHERE OTHERS JUST TALK & TALK
KPOW
KRAK

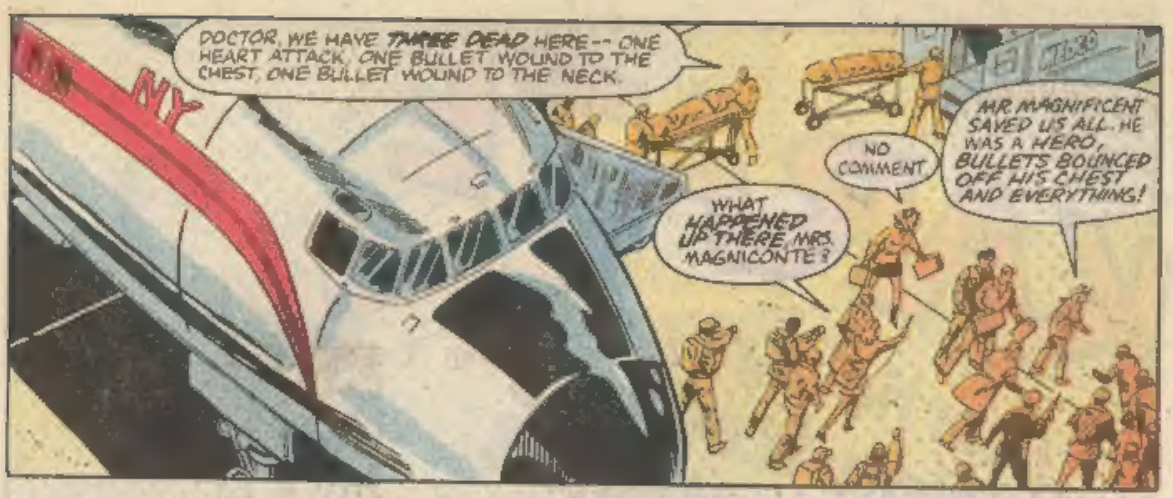

NOOOO...
VA SWOOSH!
AAHH
AIEEE
SUSIE SAYS EVERYONE STOP SCREAMING
NOW!
KLUK
UMPH!
HOLY WHAT WAS THAT ? WE'RE LOSING PRESSURE IN THE CABIN
GO TO DROP OUR ALTITUDE AND TRY TO STABILIZE THIS BABY
FLIGHT #43 TO WASHINGTON CONTROL - MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
THIS IS WASHINGTON CONTROL FLIGHT #43 COME IN OVER
WE'VE GOT UNIDENTIFIED TROUBLE IN THE REAR AND WE'RE BEING FORCED TO DROP OUR ALTITUDE TO RE PRESSURIZE THE PLANE. OVER
GOTCHA FLIGHT #43 WE'LL CLEAR A NEW FLIGHT PATH FOR YOU. STAY ON THE RADIO. OVER
WE'VE LEVELED OFF AT MINIMUM FLIGHT SPEED MIKE GO SEE WHAT HAPPENED!
DON'T WORRY, SALLY EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL
MY MOMMY! I WANT MY MOMMY!
GOT TO TRY AND GET TO THE NAVIGATOR, FREE HIM WHILE SUSIE'S OFF BALANCE!
UMMPHH!
NICE TRY HONEY LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NEXT!

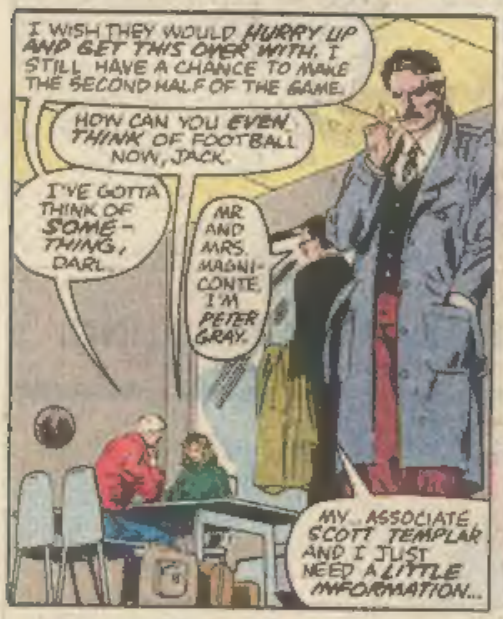
WHAT THE H--?
WHO??
SUSIE, WHAT'S WRONG? WHY THE GUN?
THIS IS WHY, MIKE!
POW
PILOTS
YOU SHOT HIM YOU KILLED HIM!
QUIET BRAT!
PLEASE! NO!! MY BABY-- DON'T HURT MY BABY!!
DON'T WORRY, "MOM"; I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE PEST-- JUST THE WAY SHE DESERVES!!
SALLY MY BABY!
SLAM
MIKE'S DEAD, MISS AND YOU BARELY ESCAPED WITH YOUR LIFE! GET TERRIFIED, THEN-
THEN WE'RE GOING TO NEED BLANKETS FOR EVERYONE. THE TEMPERATURE'S DROPPING RAPIDLY.

WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY A LOT CALMER IN HERE NOW, WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE UNSCEDULED DETOUR TO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN FIND SOME PEACE--A PLACE CALLED SHANGRI-LA YOU'VE HEARD OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
ACTUALLY, NO, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, ANYWAY. BUT I WOULD FEEL BETTER IF YOU'D GIVE ME THE GUN!
YOU WOULD MR MAGNICONTE BUT I WOULD NOT!
WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST LET SALLY COME OVER BY ME?
I THINK I'D RATHER HAVE HER STAY RIGHT HERE BY ME I TOLD HER MOTHER THAT I'D TAKE CARE OF HER, AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE A LIAR OUT OF ME WOULD YOU?
MR MAGNIFICENT PLEASE??
WITH MY SPEED I MIGHT BE ABLE TO COVER THE DISTANCE BEFORE SHE HURT ANYONE BUT I'D BE EXPOSING MY EDGE IT COULD COST ME MY FOOTBALL CAREER AND WHAT IF I'M WRONG? I MIGHT CAUSE HER TO KILL THE GIRL!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT IN THE CO-PILOT'S SEAT AND RELAX, MR MAGNICONTE? MIKE WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE AND IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE A WHILE TO GET TO SHANGRI-LA, RIGHT, CARL?
WE CAN'T FLY ANYWHERE AT THIS ALTITUDE--WE'RE TOO LOW- THERE'S TOO MUCH AIR TRAFFIC!
BESIDES THE FACT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO GET TO THIS SHANGRI-LA OF YOURS!
EASY, CARL -- IT'S TWO STARS TO THE LEFT AND STRAIGHT ON TILL MORNING!
OR WAS IT TWO STARS TO THE RIGHT?


A HALF-HOUR LATER...
CONTROL TO FLIGHT #43. WE'VE GOT YOU WITHIN OUR VISIBILITY. YOU'RE CLEARED FOR LANDING ON RUNWAY 4
WHAT?! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HEADING FOR SHANGRI-LA
TELL THEM, JAN... TELL THEM WE'RE NOT LANDING UNTIL WE FIND MY DREAM OUR DREAM
SUSIE, PLEASE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FUEL LEFT TO GO ANYWHERE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO DOWN-- NOW!
DON'T TRY IT, CARL... IT'S OUR JOB TO PLEASE THE PASSENGERS AND THEY WANT TO GO TO SHANGRI-LA I'LL KNOCK US THERE IF I HAVE TO!
AS THE SITUATION GETS... DESPERATE.
TAKE CARE OF YOUR WIFE MR. ROTHMAN WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN THE COCKPIT UNTIL WE LAND... WHEN EVER THAT WILL BE
BUT OUR DAUGHTER-- IF WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER IN THERE
I'M GOING TO SEE TO SOME OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS
ANYTHING TO KEEP MY MIND OFF THE FACT THAT JACK'S IN THERE, TOO
MY CHEST HURTS, SAM
HER CHEST HURTS!
IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO BREATHE SAM
IT'S A LITTLE HARD FOR HER TO BREATHE. DO SOMETHING, SOMEONE PLEASE!
SALLY! COME OUT OF THERE RIGHT NOW!
SALLY!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
PLEASE LET HER COME OUT MOMMY... SALLY
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP THUMP
WHA--! SALLY! IT'S TIME TO TAKE CARE OF SALLY-- THERE'S NO ROOM FOR CHILDREN IN SHANGRI-LA!
MOMMY-
NO, NO, GONNA HAVE TO ACT..


NOW!
LET HER GO!
NO, I'LL B
PKOW
ACK!
PLUP
I SEE IT GURGLE IT'S BEAUTIFUL
2:00 P.M.
IT'S SHANGRI-LA
OH MY GOD, I NEVER MEANT I KILLED HER!
HOLY MACKERAL, MR MAGNIFICENT THAT WAS REALLY NEAT!
NO I HAD TO DO IT TO PROTECT SALLY IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY THAT FAST AND THE BULLET BOUNCED RIGHT OFF YOU
I GUESS I'M LUCKY IT DID I EXPECTED MY SPEED TO GET ME TO SEE BEFORE SHE COULD FIRE BUT NOW MY SECRET'S BLOWN AND A WOMAN IS DEAD.


DOCTOR, WE HAVE THREE DEAD HERE -- ONE HEART ATTACK, ONE BULLET WOUND TO THE CHEST, ONE BULLET WOUND TO THE NECK.
NY
NO COMMENT.
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE, MRS. MAGNICONTE?
MR. MAGNIFICENT SAVED US ALL. HE WAS A HERO, BULLETS BOUNCED OFF HIS CHEST AND EVERYTHING!

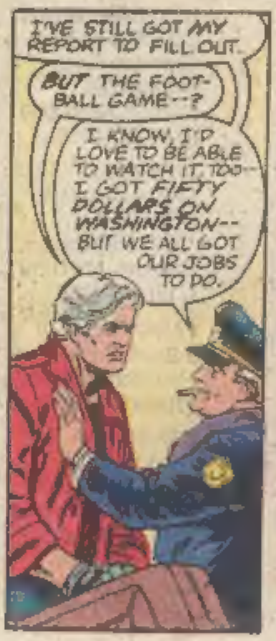

I WISH THEY WOULD HURRY UP AND GET THIS OVER WITH. I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE THE SECOND HALF OF THE GAME.
HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF FOOTBALL NOW, JACK.
I'VE GOTTA THINK OF SOME-THING, DARL.
MR. AND MRS. MAGNI-CONTE, I'M PETER GRAY.
MY ASSOCIATE SCOTT TEMPLAR AND I JUST NEED A LITTLE INFORMATION...

TEN MINUTES LATER...
...SO YOU THINK THE BULLET RICOCHETED OFF THE BULKHEAD ABOVE YOU AND THEN STRUCK THE HIJACKER HERSELF.
YES, SIR, I'M LUCKY SHE MISSED ME.
MY ACHING RIB WOULD TELL A DIFFERENT STORY. CAN'T LET THEM SEE THE BLOOD.

UH, SIR, I WAS WONDERING--?
YOU CAN LEAVE FOR YOUR FOOTBALL GAME NOW, MR. MAGNICONTE. WE STILL HAVE TO GET TO THE OTHER WITNESSES.

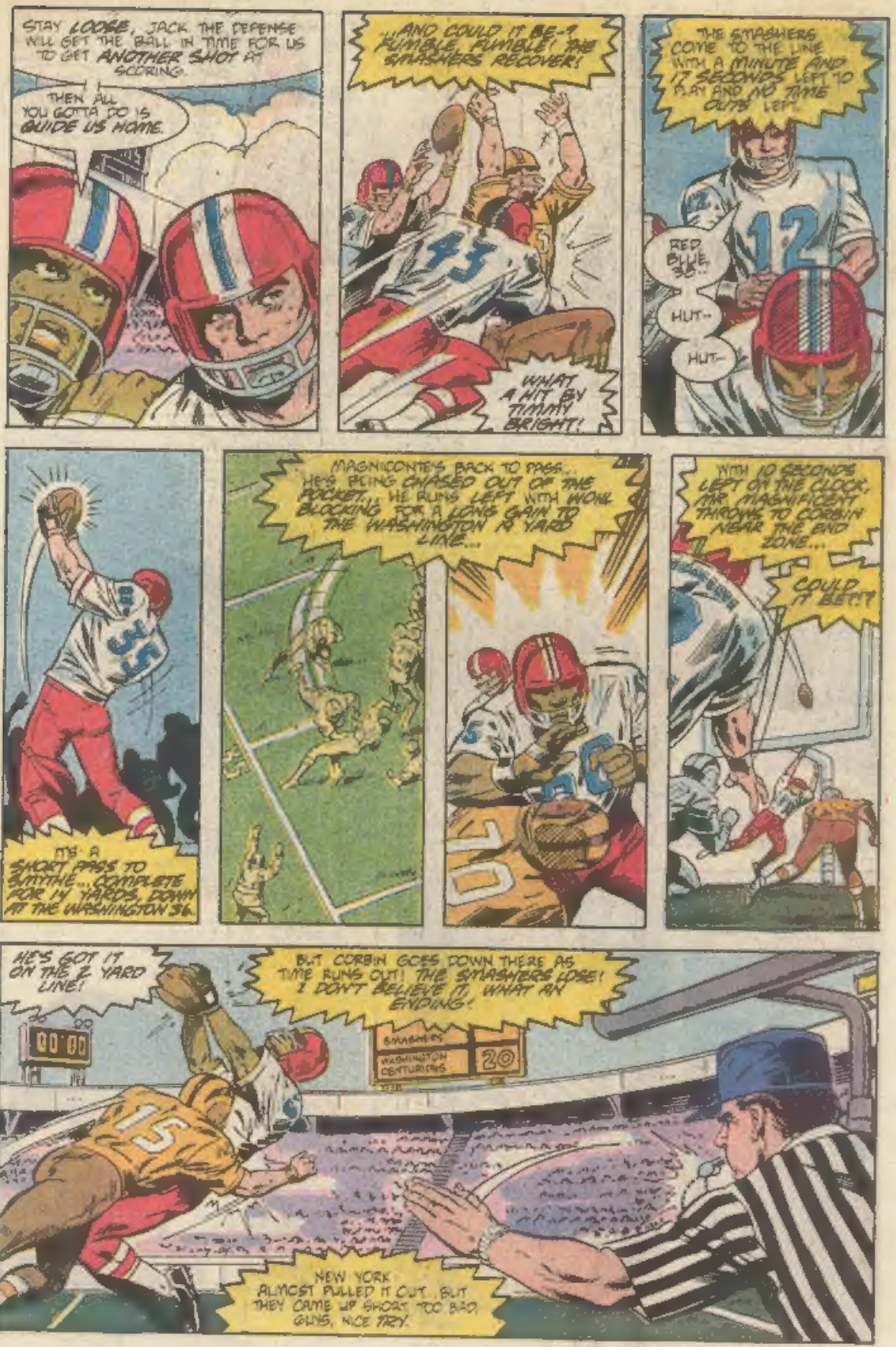
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
THANK YOU, SIR.
C'MON, DARLENE, LET'S HUSTLE.

AND THE CENTURIONS LEAD THE SMASHERS 7-0 AS WE BREAK FOR HALF-TIME...
NOT SO FAST, PAL!


I'VE STILL GOT MY REPORT TO FILL OUT.
BUT THE FOOT-BALL GAME--?
I KNOW, I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO WATCH IT, TOO-- I GOT FIFTY DOLLARS ON WASHINGTON-- BUT WE ALL GOT OUR JOBS TO DO.

IT PROBABLY WON'T TAKE TOO LONG, MR. MAGNIFICENT.

WE'VE GOT 8:25 LEFT TO PLAY WITH THE CENTURIONS LEADING 20-16, AS THE SMASHERS TAKE THE FIELD WITH BULLET BAKER AT THE HELM.
BAKER'S DOING A PASSABLE JOB FILLING IN FOR THE MISSING JACK MAGNICONTE--DESPITE HAVING A LIMITED AMOUNT OF PLAYS AT HIS DISPOSAL.
WAY TO GO, BOBBY!
HOLD IT, MISTER. WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
TO MY POSIT...
YOU JUST SIDDOWN AND WATCH! YOU CAN'T WALTZ ONTO THE FIELD WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT AND PLAY FOOTBALL. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS, CHUM.
...AND BAKER THROWS... IT'S COMPLETE TO CORBIN FOR 7 YARDS... THIRD DOWN AND 3...
IT'S A HAND-OFF TO SMYTHE UP THE MIDDLE...OOF--HE'S STOPPED SHORT BY #11, DENNIS MELKE BEHIND THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE FOR A 3 YARD LOSS...
FOURTH DOWN--THE SMASHERS WILL HAVE TO PUNT!
GET READY, MAGNICONTE. NEXT TIME WE GET THE BALL YOU'RE IN.
ALL RIGHT! THANKS, COACH!
DON'T BOTHER TO THANK ME, I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO.
ONE TURNOVER LATER...
COULD IT BE...?! YES, MR. MAGNIFICENT IS IN FOR THE SMASHERS... HE STEPS BACK TO THROW...
...BUT IT'S AWAY OVER CORBIN'S HEAD--INCOMPLETE. SECOND DOWN AND 10 FOR N.Y.
...AND MAGNICONTE HANDS OFF TO SMYTHE ON THE THIRD DOWN-- OOH, SMYTHE FUMBLES TO THE GROUND...
FOURTH DOWN AND THE SMASHERS WILL PUNT WITH 4:20 LEFT.
I REALLY MISS THOSE PRE-GAME WORKOUTS. I'M TOO STRONG FOR MY OWN GOOD
12
89
12
89


STAY LOOSE, JACK. THE DEFENSE WILL GET THE BALL IN TIME FOR US TO GET ANOTHER SHOT AT SCORING.
THEN ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS GUIDE US HOME.
...AND COULD IT BE--! FUMBLE, FUMBLE! THE SMASHERS RECOVER!
WHAT A HIT BY TIMMY BRIGHT!
THE SMASHERS COME TO THE LINE WITH A MINUTE AND 17 SECONDS LEFT TO PLAY AND NO TIME OUTS LEFT.
RED BLUE 30...
HUT--
HUT--
IT'S A SHORT PASS TO SMYTHE... COMPLETE FOR 14 YARDS, DOWN AT THE WASHINGTON 36.
MAGNICONTE'S BACK TO PASS... HE'S BEING CHASED OUT OF THE POCKET... HE RUNS LEFT WITH WOHL BLOCKING FOR A LONG GAIN TO THE WASHINGTON 9 YARD LINE...
WITH 10 SECONDS LEFT ON THE CLOCK, MR. MAGNIFICENT THROWS TO CORBIN NEAR THE END ZONE...
COULD IT BE!?
HE'S GOT IT ON THE 2 YARD LINE!
BUT CORBIN GOES DOWN THERE AS TIME RUNS OUT! THE SMASHERS LOSE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT, WHAT AN ENDING!
SMASHERS
WASHINGTON CENTURIONS
20
NEW YORK ALMOST PULLED IT OUT... BUT THEY CAME UP SHORT TOO BAD GUYS, NICE TRY.

LATER THAT EVENING...
I WAS HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE TRYING TO HANDLE THAT AIRPLANE BY MYSELF TO SEE MUCH OF WHAT WAS GOING ON BEHIND ME.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. IF YOU CAN THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE, YOU KNOW WHERE TO CONTACT US.
THAT BULLET BOUNCED RIGHT OFF HIM BECAUSE HE'S A SMASHER AND THEY'RE THE FASTEST, SMARTEST, TOUGHEST...
SALLLLY!
I'M SORRY, MR. GRAY, SHE TENDS TO HAVE AN ACTIVE IMAGINATION.
YES, WELL, THANK YOU ANYWAY, MRS. ROTHMAN... SALLY.
WE'RE OUTTA HERE, JACK. CHEER UP, PAL. YOU SAVED THE DAY.
AND I LET YOU GUYS DOWN IN THE PROCESS.
WELL, WE DON'T LIKE LOSING, BUT...
...UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHAT COULD YOU DO?
WELL...
ER... GOOD NIGHT, GUYS. TIME FOR BED.
YOU DO NEED SOME CHEERING UP, HANDSOME.
DARLENE, THAT GIRL...
SHE DIED FROM A BULLET SHE FIRED, JACK, AND YOU SAVED AN ENTIRE PLANELOAD OF PEOPLE.
YOU EARNED YOUR WINGS TODAY...
"... WE'LL DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES TOMORROW."
SEARCH THIS THING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. LET'S WRAP IT UP FOR THE FINAL REPORTS.
INSIDE...
BLOOD?
HMMM?